

## The Mentor, The Witch, and The Slayer (Part VI)

by Victor

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><br> Buffy enters the house and Willow shuts the door.  
> W:"Okay. I can clarify. What...exactly...am I clarifying, again?"<br> B:"Why you wondering if I was Spike since he's supposed to already be here."  
> W:"Oh. Right. I took him to Xander's because Giles said he was kinda used to<br> having his place back the way he likes it. You know, Spikeless. Anyway, Spike  
> called a few minutes ago and told us that Xander and Anya are bringing a video<br> camera with them for the night and that he was coming back here."  
> B:"Oh. Okay. Well, we can wait for him to get here and then you and I can head<br> back to the dorm. It shouldn't take that long to get from Xander's to here,  
> should it?"<br> G:"One would think not."  
> W:"Why can't we just head back now?"<br> B:"I would but I'll feel better once I know that our resident killer on  
> electro-prozac is safely tucked away for the night."<br> Willow looks quite dejected by this, but says nothing.  
> G:"Would you, ah, like something to drink while you wait?"<br> B:"Oh, no. Here. You sit. You were probably having a nice quiet evening alone  
> before we decided to set up camp in your living room, so I'll get it."<br> G:"Well I...alright, then."  
> Buffy heads into the kitchen and Willow turns to face Giles. "He's not going to<br> be back in a few minutes! We'll be here just waiting and Buffy's gonna know  
> something's up. What do I do?"<br> G:"My first thought is, ah, to..."

> W:"To...? To what?"<br> G:"Well, to run, to be honest. You'll not be able to keep this from her for long,  
> you know. If you get a head start, you may not have to level with her until<br> Friday. Of course, she'll be looking for you and as you know, she will find you.  
> She quite good at that, isn't she?"<br> W:"This must be Sarcastic-Giles. Pleased to meet you, my name is Gosh You're  
> Not Helping!"<br> G:"Willow, listen to me. Tell Buffy the truth. Do you really want a secret like  
> this hanging over your head? You're going to have to explain your whereabouts<br> for tomorrow night anyway. Why not just get whatever unpleasantness is to  
> come out of the way now?"<br> W:"Yeah, okay. But you have to promise to help."  
> G:"Very well, then. Don't know what I can do, but I'll do what I can."<br> B:"Do what you can for who?"  
> W:"For me. I just made him promise to help me."<br> B:"Just now? You mean all the times he's helped you in the past was a big  
> accident? Giles, I'm shocked at your capacity for coincidence."<br> G:"I believe Willow is referring to another matter for which she may need my  
> help."<br> W:"Yeah. I'm going on a date with Spike tomorrow and I need to borrow  
> something smashing to wear."<br> Buffy stares blankly at Willow as the glass of orange juice shakes loosely in  
> her hand. Giles reaches over the back of the couch to take it from her. "I just<br> finished having the carpet cleaned, thank you."  
> B:"You WHAT?!?"<br> G:"I just had the car...oh. Sorry."  
> B:"A date with Spike?"<br> W:"See, now I was hoping you'd focus on the 'I need to borrow something  
> smashing to wear' part."<br> B:"You knew about this!"  
> G:"Well, umm, to be fair she only told me just before you arrived."<br> B:"Did you try and talk her out of it?"  
> W:"Hello! Still in the room!"<br> B:"What are you doing?"  
> W:"I thought we covered that part already, didn't we?"<br> B:"Willow, you absolutely cannot go out on a date with Spike. You just can't.  
> It's not right. It's not even in a planet-wide radius of right. It's not right on so<br> many levels it makes my head hurt thinking about it."  
> W:"And when did you become my mother? When did you get the power to make<br> my desicions for me? When did I even ask your opinion? I'm going on a date  
> with Spike tomorrow and there's nothing you can do about it. And I don't want<br> to borrow any of your clothes, either."  
> B:"Will, look, I'm sorry for snapping at you, but this is...big. This is Spike we're<br> talking about."  
> W:"You told me once to sieze the day. Carpe diem. So I am."<br> B:"This isn't siezing the day. This is carpe morte. You're siezing the dead."  
> W:"Like you've never gone out with someone really older than you who didn't<br> need to breathe."  
> B:"Okay. That was fair. But this is different, this isn't Angel and me. Angel had<br> a soul and a conscience and an ability to appreciate human emotions. Spike  
> wants to turn the Scooby Gang into Scooby Snacks if he can."<br> G:"Buffy, if I may, Willow and I did talk about this. We all know what Spike is  
> capable of but we also know that he's not capable of any of it now. Before you<br> continue, think about how you felt when Angel

returned. You didn't tell any of  
 > us until much later and then only because Xander saw the two of you  
 together."<br> B:"I explained all of that."  
 > G:"Yes, you did. And I'm not questioning that. Nor am I questioning  
 your actions<br> to any degree, I merely want you to put yourself in  
 Willow's shoes before  
 > judging her choices. I told myself I was going to let the two of  
 you work this<br> out on your own, but the fact of the matter is that  
 Spike is as human now as  
 > he's ever bound to be and ever has been, including when you were  
 going to<br> marry him."  
 > B:"Thanks for bringing that one up."<br> W:"Buffy, I told you so I  
 wouldn't have to keep it a secret. I don't want to  
 > sound mean, but I wasn't asking for permission."<br> A heavy  
 silence fills the room and all three jump when the phone rings.  
 > G:"Hello? Oh, hello."<br> B:"Is it him? Is it Spike? Where is he?"  
  
 > G:"I'm...ahh...I'm actually a bit...I'm good."<br> W:"He left a  
 little while ago. He didn't tell us where he went."  
 > G:"There's nothing wrong is there? You're alright? Oh. By all  
 means, then. Why,<br> yes. Been that way for a few weeks now. You see  
 there's a...wait, is he there?"  
 > B:"Where is there? How do I get there? How far away is it?"<br>  
 G:"Buffy, please. Umm...that's okay, just checking. You're sure  
 everything is  
 > fine? Good evening, then."<br> B:"So?"  
 > G:"So, your manners are intolerable. Spike is keeping out of  
 trouble. He asked<br> me not to say, but after the last few minutes,  
 I'm tired of going round like this.  
 > Spike left here to talk to someone about the date tomorrow."<br>  
 Willow and Buffy in unison. "Really?"  
 > G:"Yes, really. He's apparently quite worried about Willow not  
 having a good<br> time and he wants to do everything right."  
 > W:"That's so sweet."<br> B:"I'm out of cash for that one."  
 > G:"What?"<br> B:"I'm not buying it."  
 > W:"Why not? Have you thought about the fact that Giles is reserving  
 his<br> opinions on the matter? He doesn't like Spike any more than  
 you do and he's  
 > willing to give us the benefit of the doubt."<br> B:"I know. I  
 would just feel better if this came from somebody he hadn't been  
 > spending so much time with. I trust you guys, but he could have  
 brainwashed you<br> over the last few days."  
 > G:"That was your mother on the phone. Spike left here to get  
 Joyce's input.<br> Does that make you feel better?"  
 > B:"Well, in a logical sense, yes. In a completely irrational, I  
 want to be right no<br> matter what sense, no. And the only reason  
 I'm not freaking out over the fact  
 > that he's with my mom is that he never hurt her even when he could.  
 That and<br> I'm still a little in shock I think."  
 > W:"This may not be the time to say this, but in the interest of  
 peace between<br> us, I mentioned one thing earlier that wasn't  
 totally true. Spike did say he  
 > wanted me to wear something smashing, so if you're over being mad,  
 I still need<br> to borrow some clothes."  
 > <p><p>

End  
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